

Our 110th year serving the greater Carbondale area -- Cedric Chubb Arnold

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Vol. 110 No. 13

Wednesday, May 12, 1982

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Restoration committee continuing to work

Volunteer work in the effort to restore Carbondale City Hall continued as several hundred members of the restoration committee shoveled several tons of pigeon waste and other debris from two upper levels of the building. The waste and debris will soon be removed from the building.

While cleaning in City Hall on March 20, as part of the restoration effort, John V. Boernik, a member of the Carbondale Historical Society, found a carbon copy of "A Geographical History of the County of Carbon, Pennsylvania and Their Subdivisions in Lackawanna County Commonwealth of Pennsylvania."

This book, which is not now generally available, was sponsored by the County Commissioners and written in August 1889, as part of the Works Progress Administration Area Number 1. The project head was John K. Blackledge. Contained in this history is the geography of the cities, boroughs, wards, and township divisions. The book also contains a section for each major area, with all items indexed and arranged chronologically. In order that this important book might be accessible to

the greatest number of readers possible, Shetfield Publications produced, free of charge, three facsimiles of this carbon copy for the Committee. On April 2, 1982, the committee presented with the commitments of the Committee to Restore Carbondale City Hall, Inc., to the Carbondale Historical Society, the Carbon County Public Library, the Lackawanna Historical Society, and the Scranton Public Library.

The significance of this discovery and the existence of this book may be in existence, as the NEWS has failed to track down the original copy of the book.

John V. Boernik, president of The Committee To Restore Carbondale City Hall, Inc., received a letter from William P. Lewis, president of the Lackawanna Historical Society, regarding the sending of a copy of the document to the group's office. The letter stated:

"Thank you very much for the copy of the 'Geographical History of the Cities, Boroughs, and Townships of Lackawanna County, Pa.' in reference book which we are glad to add to our files here. Many thanks for thinking of us and sending us a copy."